



**University of St Andrews  
Students' Association  
Students' Representative Council**

**MINUTES**

Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> November 2016 – Committee Room, 6pm

**Present**

<b>Member's Name</b>	<b>Position</b>
Sally Allmark	Arts and Divinity Faculty President
Rebecca Ryce	Association Alumni Officer
Sigrid Jorgensen	Association Chair
Aine Bennett	Association Community Relations Officer
Mariya Simeonova	Association Environment Officer
Robert Aston	Association Equal Opportunities Officer
Lewis Wood	Association LGBT Officer
Charlotte Andrew	Association President
Ben Peddie	Athletic Union President
Taryn O'Connor	Director of Events and Services
Jack Carr	Director of Representation
Caroline Christie	Director of Student Development and Activities
Emma Seckel	Principal Ambassador
Dylan Bruce	Rector's Assessor
Louise McCaul	Science and Medicine Faculty President
Lorraine Callaghan	SCR Member for Age Equality
Catriona Crookes	SCR Member for Gender Equality
Christopher Wilde	SCR Member for Widening Access and Participation
Halima Mohammad	SRC Member for Mature Students

**In Attendance**

Iain Cupples	Student Advocate (Education)/HR Manager
Scott Schorr	PG Society
Pia Szabo	SSC Societies Officer
Joseph Cassidy	The Saint

**1. Adoption of the Agenda**

Adopted without dissent

**2. Apologies and Absence**

<b>Member's Name</b>	<b>Position</b>	
Euan Grant	SRC Postgraduate Academic Convener	Apologies

Paige Onouye	SRC Member Without Portfolio	Apologies
Jennie Matthews	SRC Accommodation Officer	Absent
Alison Holiday	SRC Postgraduate Development Officer	Absent
Sam Ross	SRC Member for First Years	Absent

**The apologies were accepted without dissent.**

### **3. Adoption of the Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

To be circulated.

### **4. Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

None.

### **5. Open Forum**

No business.

### **6. Reports of the Sabbatical Officers**

#### **6.1 Report of the Association President**

Charlotte reported that she was organising a meeting of Scottish student association Presidents to discuss, amongst other topics, the UK's exit from the EU and the potential impact on international students. She was also working with the Accommodation Officer on the 'How To Rent' guide text and talks, and the Alumni Officer on Alumni Weekend. Fees and rent negotiations with the University were ongoing and there was a report to come. Finally, there was a 'Breaking the Glass Ceiling' lecture series happening.

#### **6.2 Report of the Director of Representation**

Jack reported that he had recently participated in a review of the School of Medicine and that had taken up most of his time this week.

#### **6.3 Report of the Athletic Union President**

Ben had been working on showcasing matches, programming and publicity. There had also been discussions over closer working between the AU and the Students' Association.

#### **6.4 Report of the Association Director of Events and Services**

Taryn reported that Halloween events on Friday and Monday had sold out. This week's Bop theme was 'Make The Bop Great Again'. Refreshers' Week bookings would be done soon. She had also been holding discussions with ball conveners including the Christmas Ball and Glitter Ball.

#### **6.5 Report of the Association Director of Student Development and Activities**

Caroline minuted thanks to those who had helped with Raisin Monday cleanup. She was working with the Societies' Officer on a review of societies documentation and with the AU President on the volunteering portal. There would be a Charities Christmas Fayre with involvement from societies.

Christmas Ball tickets would go on sale tomorrow: this year sales would be online only to avoid the queuing issues of previous years.

## **7. Questions for committees**

### **7.1 Association Alumni Committee**

There would be an Alumni Festival launch mixer event next week.

### **7.2 Association Community Relations Committee**

Cycle lights would go on sale shortly. The Alumni committee was working with the Charities campaign on the Christmas Fayre.

### **7.3 Association Environment Committee**

Work on the Environment policy was progressing and conversations would be held with key stakeholders. A food survey for halls was being held.

### **7.4 Association LGBT+ Committee**

Plans were being made for semester 2 events. A trans\* festival would be held in week 9. Lewis reiterated the request for clothing contributions.

### **7.5 Equal Opportunities Committee**

Robert reported that talks to set up a cultural societies forum were ongoing and the aim was to have this up and running by semester 2. There would be a meeting to try to set up a Mature Students' Association on November 8<sup>th</sup>. A photoshoot for a mental health event was planned.

### **7.7 SRC Member for Gender Equality**

There would be a campaign for awareness on gender identity in conjunction with LGBTQ+.

### **7.9 SRC Member for Age Equality**

As noted in 7.5 there would be a forum on November 8<sup>th</sup> to set up a Mature Students' Association. Lorraine had contacted the PG Officer and others via the commuting students' room: Admissions were also helping. Registry had expressed data protection concerns about releasing contact details for mature students. Iain said that he did not believe this should be a problem as student details were also our membership details, and as such there was an agreement to share data. He would contact Registry about this.

### **7.11 SRC Member for Widening Access and Participation**

There would be a meeting of the Widening Access Group to explore participation issues.

### **7.14 Rectors' Committee**

The Rector would be in town on Thursday and would hold a surgery that day.

## **8. Unfinished General Business**

There was no unfinished business.

## **9. New General Business**

### **9.1 Nominees to SRC Elections Committee**

SRC were asked for nominations for three vacant positions on the Association Elections Committee. Jack clarified that these positions could be resigned before the elections and thus agreeing to nomination would not exclude a person from standing as a candidate in future. The Committee would meet shortly to discuss rules revisions and planning for the elections.

Nominations received were:

Emma Seckel  
Dylan Bruce  
Sally Allmark

There were no further nominations. All candidates were appointed without dissent.

### **9.2 R.16-4 A MOTION TO PROVIDE FOR THE CO-OPTION OF THE SRC MEMBER FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES**

#### **THIS SRC NOTES:**

1. A casual vacancy exists in the office of the Member for Students with Disabilities.

#### **THIS SRC RESOLVES:**

1. To co-opt a new Member for Students with Disabilities at the next meeting of the SRC on 15<sup>th</sup> of November 2016.
2. To mandate the Director of Representation to advertise the position.

#### **PROPOSED:**

Jack Carr, Director of Representation

#### **SECONDED:**

Charlotte Andrew, President

Taryn O'Connor, Director of Events and Services

Caroline Christie, Director of Student Development and Activities

The meeting was informed that the SRC Wellbeing Officer had recently resigned. Accordingly, an amendment to the motion was proposed as follows:

Amendment – to add ‘Notes’ point 2, “A casual vacancy exists in the office of SRC Wellbeing Officer.”

Renumber existing ‘Resolves’ point 2 to point 3, add new point 2: “To co-opt a new Wellbeing Officer at the next meeting of the SRC on 15<sup>th</sup> November.”

Re-title motion accordingly.

Proposed: Charlotte Andrew, seconded: Jack Carr.

This amendment was **passed without dissent**.

The motion as amended was **passed without dissent**.

Members were encouraged to advertise the vacancy as widely as possible and encourage students who were interested to attend the next meeting.

**9.3 J16-18 A motion to recommend that the Students’ Association Board of Trustees creates the offices of Director of Education and Director of Wellbeing, and retires the office of the Director of Representation, effective July 1st 2017.**

**This SRC and SSC notes:**

1. The circulated paper “*Review of Sabbatical Remits and Oversight of Representational Activities*,” presented by the Director of Representation to the Students’ Association Board on Thursday 20th October.
2. That the Students’ Association Board of Trustees has approved the concept of a fifth Students’ Association Sabbatical.
3. That the financial aspects of the introduction of the role have been considered by the Students’ Association and University and have been approved in principle.
  - i. That there will be no impact upon the student spend i.e. subcommittee budgets.
4. That there will be changes necessitated to the make-up of the Association Councils - notably the addition of an additional Sabbatical Officer, the removal of the position of Wellbeing Officer and the addition of a Member for Mental Health Awareness.
5. That there will be an additional student and lay trustee of the Students’ Association.
6. That there are no other institutions in Scotland where education, wellbeing and equality are represented by one single Sabbatical Officer.
7. That the first objective of the Students Association according to its constitution is to provide services for the health and wellbeing of its members.

**This SRC and SSC believes:**

1. The Director of Representation’s remit covering Education, Wellbeing, Equal Opportunities and Democracy is too broad for one Sabbatical Officer.
2. That the Students’ Association has a duty to represent students to the best possible standard in every area of that remit.
3. Student Wellbeing and Equality deserve the attention of a Sabbatical Officer in a way which is currently left lacking due to the demanding nature of the Education remit.
4. That the split of responsibilities as set out in the paper “*Review of Sabbatical Remits and Oversight of Representational Activities*” is an appropriate separation of the Director of Representation’s remit.

5. The position of Wellbeing Officer should have its responsibilities entirely subsumed into the Director of Wellbeing Remit and be removed from the SRC after the 2017 Students' Association Elections.
6. That this can be considered a promotion of that role and that this will both align with our constitutional aims and be of benefit to the Student Body.

**This SRC and SSC resolves:**

1. To recommend to the Board of Trustees that from July 2016, there should be a Director of Education and a Director of Wellbeing.
2. To recommend to the Board of Trustees that from July 2016, there should not be a Director of Representation.
3. To mandate the chair and sabbatical team to amend the laws with appropriate remits at the time which is deemed most appropriate.
4. To mandate the Director of Representation to create formal handover documents for both positions.
5. To mandate the Association Councils to communicate this change to the Student Body before Students' Association Elections in 2017.
6. To elect a Director of Education and a Director of Wellbeing in the Students' Association elections in 2017, subject to the approval of the Students' Association Board of Trustees.

**Proposed**

Jack Carr - Director of Representation

Charlotte Andrew - Association President

Caroline Christie - Director of Student Development and Activities

Taryn O'Connor - Director of Events and Services

Ben Peddie - Athletic Union President

**Seconded:** Lewis Wood - SRC Senior Officer, Association LGBT+ Officer

Jack began by proposing two amendments. First, to correct dates given in 'resolves' points 1 and 2 from 2016 to 2017 (**passed without dissent**); and second, to add Pia Szabo, SSC Societies Officer, as a seconder (**passed without dissent**). Jack also asked SRC to grant Pia speaking rights on the motion – the SRC **agreed without dissent**.

Jack emphasised that the proposed remits included in the attached paper were a draft only and were open to change and suggestions from council members.

Lewis welcomed the increased focus this change would enable on both education and wellbeing. He felt that subcommittees that thrived were those with strong sabbatical support and strong heads. This change would therefore strengthen the work of the subcommittees currently supported by the DoRep.

Emma asked about which sabbaticals would attend University Court under this proposal – it was confirmed that this would be the President and Director of Education, though in doing so they would seek and pass on input from all of the other sabbaticals, as at present.

Louise noted that the areas of education and wellbeing often attracted very different people with different backgrounds and so felt that this change had the potential to attract better candidates.

Taryn asked about the remit of the new Member for Mental Health Awareness proposed as part of this motion. Jack explained that this was not yet developed. An amendment was proposed as follows:

**Amendment** – Point 4 in ‘Notes’, insert full stop after ‘Wellbeing Officer’, delete following ‘and’. Add after ‘Member for Mental Health Awareness’ the words “is approved pending remit approval in the next Joint Councils meeting”.

Proposed: Charlotte Andrew, seconded: Caroline Christie.

The amendment was **passed without dissent**.

Caroline said she had been concerned at first about whether the role of Director of Wellbeing would work out as a full-time commitment equal to that of the Director of Education, but that her fears on this point had been allayed. Catriona asked if a part-time position had at any time been considered: Jack said that it had, but had been rejected as impractical and insufficient.

Aine asked about the future of the STAND Together project – Jack confirmed this would be overseen by the Director of Wellbeing. Charlotte commented that the role provided potential to develop and run similar collaborative projects with Student Services.

Charlotte noted that funding for the post was still to be confirmed but that this was a question for the Board.

The motion, as amended, was **passed without dissent**.

## **10. Collaborative Solutions**

(In camera, not minuted.)

## **11. AOCB**

Members were reminded to send in reports.